



02/27/2023

To Transportation Committee Chairs Sen. Christine Cohen, Rep. Roland Lemar, and Distinguished Members,

I am writing in support of HB6747 - AN ACT CONCERNING A PLAN TO MODERNIZE AND MAINTAIN BUS STOPS AND SHELTERS

My name is Spencer Early and I am writing on behalf of Connecticut Urbanists, a grassroots activist group with a goal of improving access to public transportation and street safety. I am in support of improving our bus stops. The majority of bus stops in Connecticut are lacking amenities even as basic as a place to sit. Requiring the Department of Transportation and each transit district to develop a plan to modernize and maintain bus stops is a good first step in making CT Transit buses a desirable means of transportation.

Over the past few months, CT Urbanists has begun a bench build initiative, a tactical urbanism approach to provide benches at high trafficked bus stops that have inadequate shelters in the broader Hartford area. We consider a variety of factors, most importantly: Other factors we consider are the density of commercial establishments in the immediate neighborhood and the activity at the curb (whether there is sufficient buffer between the bus stops and the travel lanes, such as the existence of a shoulder or parking). The bench placement is ultimately decided by whether we can adequately secure the bench within the public Right of Way, as it is not our objective to encroach on private property. We take in mind that the upcoming Greater Hartford Mobility Study has made provisions to plan for providing more dedicated amenities at bus stops, and we are closely watching for the release of the report. We also take in mind the importance of growing a shared sense of ownership by engaging with local groups and stakeholders in each community. We have been able to get started on this with funding through crowdsourcing. See pictures below of our benches on Franklin Avenue and Park Street in Hartford:



Spencer Early on behalf of the Connecticut Urbanists.